

A Pen Photograph of President Grant.

My brilliant friend, Mrs. Sarah A. Ames, has had the honor of modeling the very finest bust of President Grant yet produced. I have an ambition to rival, at least, the fidelity and lifelikeness of that work by a single pen

and ink sketch. Though so quiet and undemonstrative, President Grant's manner is not cold. Though somewhat set and quite reticent in expression, his face is neither hard nor forbidding. Though his eyes of grayish blue certainly do not radiate geniality

and fellowship, I have always seen in them a still and steady friendliness, impartial, always discriminating, but singularly unforgetful. His look in your eyes on a first meeting, is clear, direct, but not piercing. He makes no deep scrutiny into your character, but you feel that he reads you well, and

far as he goes, and you may be sure he will know you the next time. His words are for us as he has occasionally remarked, and his address simplicity itself. Some one once called it "courageous simplicity." I don't think the term suited him; it implies too much

Franklin's appearance at the Court of Versailles was "courageous simplicity." Jefferson's riding on horse-back from the White House to the Capitol was dramatic simplicity. But Grant gives no thought to effect—makes no

parade of not making a parade. In walking, he carries his head—that wonderfully compact, evenly-modeled head—slightly forward; and he has in public places an absent yet acquiescent air, as one being taken somewhat rather than going of his own volition—which is usually the case as he is

the most obliging, informal, unmagisterial of Chief Magistrates. To me there is something strange in the ordinary passivity of such a will as his.—He seems not only a modest, but a diffident man. Great heroes before him have been so. This diffidence may of-

ten be taken for indifference and insensibility. I think I have seen the sure marks of it in his intercourse with children, for whom he really has the fondness characteristic of Mr. Lincoln. He has no small-talk for some interviewers, but he is not above listen-

ing to them, and I have noticed that they never account him hard or cold. They have perhaps the instinct to understand and the grace to interpret that riddle for statesmen, reporter and the ladies—the fate of the President. It seems to me there is too much petty cavil at this man's nose.

observance of some of the small conventionalities which we call the "etiquette of the position;" too many newspaper platitudes that he enjoys his cigar, that he loves horses, [bless him for that,] that he does not make speeches on all trivial occasions; [bless

him for that, too!] in short, that he does not "do the department" in his place, according to aristocratic and democratic theories; that he is not the President of precedent.—[Grace Greenwood.]

The Rival Breech Loaders:
The Prussian Needle-Gun, tested at Sadowna on a grand scale, and the French Chassepot rifle, which did wonders at Mentana, on a small one, are about to have their respective qualities put to a severe trial. The

Needle-Gun did more than conquer the Austrians at Sadown. It kept France from intervening against Prussia when that power aggrandized itself by appropriating the territory of its helpless neighbors. It kept France from precipitating hostilities when Bismarck refused compliance with the

Emperor's demands in regard to Luxembourg. And but for the invention of the Chassepot rifle, which is claimed to be superior to the Needle-gun it would have kept France back from the present war. A brief description of these celebrated weapons, is especi-

cially appropriate at this time, when their qualities as implements of destruction are to be tested on so grand a scale.

THE NEEDLE-GUN.

The Prussian Needle-Gun is the in-

vention of Herr Dryese, a gun-manufacturer, who spent thirty years in trying to construct a perfect breech loading rifle that would be of practical use in war. The barrel is 36.06 inches long, and is rifled with four grooves down to the breech, where the chamber is located. The cartridge is shown

ber of bed for the cartridge, is smooth and a little larger than the bore. The bed enlarges slightly to the rear, so as to admit the cartridge freely; and the lower part of the bore, for a distance of 6.17 inches, is enlarged so that the ball is gradually compressed into the grooves. The rest of the barrel is con-

test, and is called the mouth-piece. The air-chamber, next to the cylinder, has the needle pipe screwed into its breech. The cartridge is inserted at the rear, and the ignition is produced by the intrusion of a needle into the fulminate attached to the cartridge.

The ball is spherico-conical, and the powder charge is 56 grams. The weight of this gun is less than 11 pounds. The mechanism can be taken apart without screw-driver, vice, etc.; can be safely and easily cleaned, and the gun being small, is particularly

of loop-holes, on horseback, etc. The objections to the Prussian Needle-gun are, the danger of a weakening of the spiral spring, and the possibility that the needle may not be propelled with sufficient force to pierce the cartridge.

THE CHASSE-OT.
The French claim that this gun which is the invention of Mr. Chassepot, is the most efficient weapon ever put into the hands of an army. It bears some resemblance to the Needle Gun, but has this advantage over the

arm, that its mechanism is much more simple and less liable to become clogged or get out of order. The "Needle" gun, after it has been discharged several times in quick succession, becomes hot and damp in the chamber, owing to the inability of the gas which comes from the combustion of the propellant

back after the explosion of the bridge to escape. The bridge soon